

***The Legislature of the State of Texas******Street Address***

State Capitol, 100 East 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 12068, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2068 (Senate)

P.O. Box 2910, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78768-2910 (House)

***Phone***

(512) 463-0001, Lieutenant Governor

(512) 463-0100, Secretary of the Senate

(512) 463-3000, Speaker of the House

***Fax***

(512) 463-0326, Senate

(512) 463-5896, House

***Electronic Resources***

<http://www.house.state.tx.us>

<http://www.senate.state.tx.us>

***Legislative Leaders***

By virtue of office, the Lieutenant Governor is the President of the Senate, elected by the people for a four year term; and the Speaker of the House is elected by the membership of the House of Representatives for a two-year term.

***Description***

The Texas Constitution vests all legislative power of the state in a Senate and a House of Representatives, together called the Legislature of the State of Texas. By virtue of office, the lieutenant governor is the president of the Senate, with the right to debate and vote on questions in committee of the whole and the right to cast the deciding vote when the chamber is equally divided. The Senate elects one of its members president pro tempore to perform the duties of the lieutenant governor during his or her absence or disability or when the office is vacant. Biennially, the House of Representatives elects a speaker from its membership to serve as its presiding officer.

***Legislative Reference Library******Street Address***

State Capitol, Room 2N.3, 1100 Congress, Austin, Texas 78701

***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 12488, Austin, Texas 78711-2488

***Phone***

(512) 463-1252

***Fax***

(512) 475-4626

***Agency Head***

The Director is appointed by the board.

***Description***

The Legislative Reference Library was a division of the Texas State Library until 1969, when it became a separate agency. The library furnishes information to legislators and their staff members as well as to heads and employees of state agencies and citizens of the state.

## State Legislative Sources

### ***Governor's Office***

#### ***Street Address***

Rm 25.1 State Capitol, Austin, Texas 78701

#### ***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 12428, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2428

#### ***Phone***

(512) 463-2000

#### ***Fax***

(512) 463-1849

#### ***Electronic Resources***

Texas Victim Assistance Network (TVAN)

BBS Modem: 1-800-262-8826, (512) 463-3344

Access via the Comptroller's BBS

BBS Modem: 1-800-227-8392, (512) 475-1051

#### ***Toll-Free Phones***

(800) 252-8477, Crime Stoppers Program

(800) 848-4284, Crime Victim Clearinghouse

(800) 392-3352, Runaway Hotline (calls originating in Texas)

(800) 231-6946, Runaway Hotline (calls originating outside Texas)

#### ***Agency Head***

The Governor is elected by the people for a four-year term. Eligibility Requirement: must be at least thirty years old and a resident of Texas for the five years immediately preceding election.

#### ***Description***

The Governor of Texas is the chief executive of the state, elected by the citizens every four years. The governor's constitutional duties and responsibilities include serving as commander-in-chief of the state's military forces, convening special sessions of the legislature for specific purposes, and delivering to the legislature at the beginning of each regular session a report on the condition of all public money required to be raised by taxation. The governor can also grant reprieves and commutations of punishment and pardons, remit fines and forfeitures upon the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Paroles, and revoke conditional pardons; approve or veto every bill passed in the legislature; and fill by appointment, subject to senate confirmation, vacancies in state or district elective offices, except those in the legislature, until the next general election following the creation of such a vacancy. The governor issues writs of election to fill vacancies in the state legislature, U.S. House of Representatives, and U.S. Senate. In the case of the U.S. Senate, he or she has the power to appoint someone to serve until the election. In addition, the governor is authorized to appoint state officials and members of state boards, commissions, and task forces that carry out the laws and direct the policies of state government activities.

***Lieutenant Governor******Street Address***

State Capitol, 100 East 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 12068, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2068

***Phone***

(512) 463-0001

***Fax***

(512) 463-0039

***Agency Head***

The Lieutenant Governor is elected by the people for a four-year term. Eligibility requirements: must be at least thirty years old and a resident of Texas for the five years immediately preceding election.

***Description***

The Office of lieutenant governor is one of the most powerful and influential posts in Texas government. The lieutenant governor's responsibilities are defined by three sources: the Texas Constitution, the statutes, and the Rules of the Senate. The Constitution directs that the lieutenant governor may be called upon to assume the office of governor at any time. If the governor is absent from the state or in the event of his or her death, resignation, impeachment, or inability or refusal to serve, the lieutenant governor is authorized to exercise the powers and authority of the governor until another is elected at a general election and is duly qualified or until the Governor- impeached, absent or disabled -is acquitted, returns to the State, or recovers. The Constitution also makes the lieutenant governor the president of the Texas Senate.

***Texas Commission on the Arts******Street Address***

E. O. Thompson Bldg.  
920 Colorado, 5th Floor, Austin, Texas 78701

***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 13406, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-3406

***Phone***

(512) 463-5535

***Toll-Free Phone***

(800) 252-9415

***Fax***

(512) 475-2699

***Agency Head***

The Executive Director is appointed by the commission.

***Description***

The Legislature established the Texas Commission on the Arts in 1965 to develop a receptive climate for the arts in Texas, attract outstanding artists to Texas, serve as a source of arts information to state government and Texas at large, and expand and enhance cultural opportunities for all Texans. The commission advises the General Services Commission, Texas Historical Commission, Texas State Library, Texas Department of Transportation, and other state agencies to encourage and develop an appreciation for the arts. It advises on the creation, acquisition, construction, erection, or remodeling by the state of any work of art. It can also advise the governor, when requested, on the artistic character of buildings constructed, erected, or remodeled by the state.

## State Legislative Sources

### *Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse*

#### *Address*

9001 N. IH35, Suite 105, Austin, Texas 78753-5233

#### *Phone*

(512) 349-6600

#### *Fax*

(512) 837-8500

#### *Agency Head*

The Executive Director is appointed by the commission.

#### *Description*

The Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, originally the Texas Commission on Alcoholism, was created in 1953 to promote the establishment of treatment programs to reclaim, rehabilitate, and socially reestablish alcoholics. In 1985 the legislature expanded the agency's authority to include services for drug abuse as well as alcohol abuse. Legislation passed in 1991 substituted the term "chemical dependency" for "alcohol and drug abuse" in the statute governing the commission's responsibilities.

### *Attorney General*

#### *Street Address*

Price Daniel Building, 209 West 14th and Colorado Streets, 8th Floor,  
Austin, Texas 78701

#### *Mailing Address*

P.O. Box 12548, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2548

#### *Phone*

(512) 463-2100

#### *Fax*

(512) 463-2063

#### *Toll-Free Phone*

(800) 252-8011, to report fraudulent or excessive Medicaid payments, elder abuse or neglect in health care facilities, or misappropriation of patient trust funds

(800) 252-8014, Child Support Hotline

#### *Agency Head*

The Attorney General is elected by the people for a four-year term.

#### *Description*

The Attorney General is charged by the Texas Constitution to defend the laws and the Constitution of the State of Texas, represent the state in litigation, and approve public bond issues. To fulfill these responsibilities, the attorney general serves as legal counsel to the governor, the legislature, and more than three hundred boards and agencies of state government; issues legal opinions when they are requested by the governor, heads of state departments, and other officials and agencies as provided by Texas statutes; administers the various divisions, sections, and committees that make up the Office of the Attorney General (OAG); and sits as an ex officio member of certain state committees and commissions.

***Texas Commission for the Blind******Street Address***

4800 North Lamar Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78756

***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 12866, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2866

***Phone***

(512) 459-2500

***Toll-Free Phone***

(800) 252-5204 (voice or TDD)

***Fax***

(512) 459-2685

***Agency Head***

The Executive Director is appointed by the commission.

***Description***

The Texas Commission for the Blind, originally named the State Commission for the Blind, was established in 1931 to provide rehabilitation and other services to blind residents not receiving such services from other sources. In 1965 the commission's scope was broadened to include all the state's visually impaired citizens, but the commission does not offer its client population welfare services or services that regularly established educational agencies and state authorities provide for children.

***Texas Department of Economic Development******Street Address***

1700 North Congress, Stephen F. Austin Building, Austin, Texas 78701

***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 12728, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2728

***Phone***

(512) 936-0100

(512) 936-0500, Smart Jobs Fund Program

***Fax***

(512) 936-0303

***Electronic Resources***

<http://www.tdoc.state.tx.us>

***Agency Head***

The Executive Director is appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for a two-year term.

***Description***

On September 1, 1987, the state legislature created the Texas Department of Commerce by consolidating several state agencies, commissions, and boards, including the Texas Economic Development Commission, Texas Tourist Development Agency, Texas World Trade Council, Texas World Trade Development Authority, Enterprise Zone Board, Technology Training Board, Texas Music Commission, and Texas Film Commission. The Job Training Partnership Act and the Community Development Block Grant programs were also transferred to the department from the Texas Department of Community Affairs.

## State Legislative Sources

### ***Comptroller of Public Accounts***

#### ***Street Address***

111 West 6th Street, Starr Building, Austin, Texas 78701

#### ***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 13528, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-3528

#### ***Phone***

(512) 463-4600

#### ***Toll-Free Phone***

(800) 252-5555, taxes and payee identification numbers

(800) 232-8927, reports of waste in government

#### ***Fax***

(512) 475-0900

#### ***Electronic Resources***

Window on State Government

BBS Modem: 1-800-227-8392, (512) 475-1051

Telnet: <telnet://window.texas.gov/>

<http://www.window.texas.gov/>

#### ***Agency Head***

The Comptroller is elected by the people for a four-year term.

#### ***Description***

The Comptroller of Public Accounts holds responsibility for maintaining effective methods for accounting for the state's funds, serves as the state's principal tax administrator and collector of tax revenue, and provides the research and statistics necessary for revenue estimating and certification. The comptroller is required by statute to provide the legislature with a sworn financial statement showing the financial condition of the state at the close of the last fiscal year and an estimate of the probable revenue and expenditures for the current fiscal year. This statement must also contain an itemized estimate of the state's anticipated revenue, showing fully the fund accounts to be credited during the succeeding biennium. The comptroller must then certify that the general appropriations bill is within the amount estimated to be available in the affected funds.

### ***Texas Education Agency***

#### ***Address***

1701 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701-1494

#### ***Phone***

(512) 463-8985

#### ***Fax***

(512) 463-9008

#### ***Electronic Resources***

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us>

#### ***Agency Head***

The Commissioner of Education is nominated by the board and appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate for a four-year term.

#### ***Description***

In 1949 state management of public education in Texas was reorganized and the legislature abolished the elective office of state superintendent of public instruction, which had been created in 1884, and the appointive State Board of Education, dating from 1929. The legislature created a central education agency--the Texas Education Agency (TEA)--composed of an elected State Board of Education (to serve also as the State Board for Vocational Education); a commissioner of education, originally appointed by the board and now appointed by the governor; and a professional, technical, and clerical staff. This agency coordinates all public educational activities and services except those of colleges and universities. In 1984 the legislature created the Legislative Education Board to oversee the implementation of legislatively mandated education reforms and policies.

***Texas Ethics Commission******Street Address***

201 E. 14th Sam Houston, Austin, Texas 78701

***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 12070, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2070

***Phone***

(512) 463-5800

***Toll-Free Phone***

(800) 325-8506

***Fax***

(512) 463-5777

***Electronic Resources***

<http://www.ethics.state.tx.us>

***Agency Head***

The Executive Director is appointed by the commission.

***Description***

In the November 1991 general election, Texas voters approved a constitutional amendment that created the Texas Ethics Commission. Established as a functioning agency on January 1, 1992, the commission is a resource for questions regarding the applicability of state ethics laws and has the power to investigate allegations of violations of ethics laws and to penalize violations. It also sponsors ethics training and informational programs and explains compliance guidelines.

***Texas Commission on Fire Protection******Street Address***

12675 Research Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78759

***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 2286, Austin, Texas 78768-2286

***Phone***

(512) 918-7100

***Fax***

(512) 918-7107

***Agency Head***

The Executive Director is appointed by the commission.

***Description***

In 1991 the 72nd Legislature created the Texas Commission on Fire Protection by consolidating the Fire Department Emergency Board and the Commission on Fire Protection Personnel Standards and Education and transferring certain fire protection duties, including oversight of the state fire marshal and key rate municipal inspections, from the State Board of Insurance. The Fire Department Emergency Board had been created in 1990 as an adjunct to the Office of the State Fire Marshal to provide loans to fire-fighting organizations and scholarships for their members. The Commission on Fire Protection Personnel Standards and Education had been created in 1969 to develop minimum standards for entry-level training of fire fighters. The Office of the State Fire Marshal was created in 1975 within the State Board of Insurance to assist in fire investigations and arson prosecutions and to coordinate, train, and provide technical support to municipal and rural fire departments.

## State Legislative Sources

### ***General Land Office***

#### ***Street Address***

Stephen F. Austin State Office Building, Room 835  
1700 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701-1496

#### ***Phone***

(512) 463-5001

#### ***Toll-Free Phone***

(800) 852-3224, Texas Clean Shores program  
(800) 252-VETS, Texas Veterans Land Board Information Center

#### ***Fax***

(512) 475-1558

#### ***Electronic Resources***

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us>

#### ***Agency Head***

The Land Commissioner is elected by the people for a four-year term.

#### ***Description***

When Texas declared independence from Mexico in 1836, one of the first acts of the Congress of the Republic was to create the General Land Office, which was charged with verifying Spanish and Mexican titles to determine which land was in the public domain and which was privately owned. On entering the Union in 1845, Texas retained almost 200 million acres of public land. The state's constitution charged the General Land Office with the supervision and management of these public lands.

### ***Texas Department of Health***

#### ***Address***

1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756

#### ***Phone***

(512) 458-7111

#### ***Electronic Resources***

<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us>

#### ***Agency Head***

The Commissioner of Health is appointed by the board. Eligibility requirement: must be licensed to practice medicine in Texas.

#### ***Description***

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) was created in 1879 as the Texas Quarantine Department, charged primarily with isolating and preventing epidemic diseases such as smallpox, cholera, and typhoid fever. Over the next century, the department became the state's primary agency for public health planning, services, and regulation. It assumed its current name in 1978.



***Texas Historical Commission******Street Address***

1511 Colorado Street, Austin, Texas 78701

***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2276

***Phone***

(512) 463-6100

***Fax***

(512) 475-4872

***Electronic Resources***

<http://www.thc.state.tx.us>

***Agency Head***

The Executive Director is appointed by the commission.

***Description***

The Texas Historical Commission was created in 1953 to administer a comprehensive preservation program under state law. The agency also administers the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The Texas State Historical Survey Committee was the commission's predecessor.

***Texas Department of Human Services******Street Address***

701 West 51st Street, Austin, Texas 78751

***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 149030, Austin, Texas 78714-9030

***Phone***

(512) 438-3011

***Fax***

(512) 450-4220

***Electronic Resources***

DHS

<http://www.dhs.state.tx.us/>

***Agency Head***

The Commissioner is appointed by the board.

***Description***

The Texas Department of Human Services (DHS), originally created as the Department of Public Welfare in 1939, administers financial and medical assistance programs derived from both state and federal funds and offers social services to families and children, the aged, and the disabled. DHS services targeted to low-income clients include financial and nutritional assistance as well as access to health care, child care, employment services, nursing home services, and community care for aged and disabled persons. The agency also regulates long-term care facilities and administers programs for survivors of family violence and victims of natural disasters.

## State Legislative Sources

### ***Texas State Library and Archives Commission***

#### ***Street Address***

Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building  
1201 Brazos Street, Austin, Texas 78701

#### ***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 12927, Austin, Texas 78711-2927

#### ***Phone***

(512) 463-5460

#### ***Fax***

(512) 463-5436

#### ***Electronic Resources***

Texas State Library System

<http://link@tsl.state.tx.us>

#### ***Agency Head***

The Director and Librarian are appointed by the commission.

#### ***Description***

The legislature created the Library and Historical Commission in 1909 to direct the Texas State Library, aid and encourage libraries, and collect materials relating to the history of Texas. In 1979 the name was changed to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

### ***Texas Parks and Wildlife Department***

#### ***Street Address***

4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744

#### ***Phone***

(512) 389-4800

#### ***Toll-Free Phone***

(800) 792-1112, department information

(800) 792-GAME, Operation Game Thief

#### ***Fax***

(512) 389-4894

#### ***Electronic Resources***

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>

#### ***Agency Head***

The Executive Director is appointed by the commission.

#### ***Description***

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provides outdoor recreational opportunities through managing and protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat and acquiring and managing parklands and historic areas. It has inherited the functions of several earlier state entities designed to protect the natural resources of Texas. In 1895 the legislature created the Fish and Oyster Commission to regulate fishing. The Game Department was added to the commission in 1907. The State Parks Board was created as a separate entity in 1923. Projects of the federal Civilian Conservation Corps added substantially to the state's park lands in the 1930's.

***Texas Department of Public Safety******Street Address***

5805 North Lamar Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78752

***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 4087, Austin, Texas 78773-4087

***Phone***

(512) 424-2000

***Toll-Free Phone***

(800) 525-5555, rural highway emergencies (where 911 is unavailable)

(800) 346-3243, missing persons hotline

(800) 727-7677, to report a rail signal malfunction

(800) 292-5787, motorcycle safety

***Fax***

(512) 424-2603 (customer service)

***Electronic Resources***

<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us>

***Agency Head***

The Director is appointed by the commission.

***Description***

In 1935 the legislature incorporated the Texas Rangers, which had been under the Adjutant General's Department, and the State Highway Patrol, then under the Texas Highway Department, into the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) in an effort to organize the state's crime prevention and traffic control more adequately. The DPS has evolved into an organization with broad authority and responsibility for law enforcement and the general maintenance of public safety. It administers various laws relating to motor vehicles, including police traffic supervision, driver licensing, and motor vehicle inspection. The department also enforces criminal laws in cooperation with local, federal, and other state law enforcement agencies. In 1991 the DPS assumed responsibility for security in the Capitol complex, a function that had until then rested with the State Purchasing and General Services Commission.

## State Legislative Sources

### ***Railroad Commission of Texas***

#### ***Street Address***

William B. Travis State Office Building  
1701 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701

#### ***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967

#### ***Phone***

(512) 463-7288

(512) 463-6788, to report railway accidents or accidents involving oil or gas, LP-gas, compressed natural gas, or oil or gas products pipelines

#### ***Fax***

(512) 463-7161

#### ***Electronic Resources***

<http://www.rrc.state.tx.us>

#### ***Agency Head***

The policy-making body of the agency is a three-member commission, elected by the people to overlapping six-year terms. Eligibility requires commissioners must be qualified voters, be at least 25 years old, and have no concerns with any railroad. These are full-time salaried positions, and the commissioners elect a chair.

#### ***Description***

In 1890 an amendment to the Texas Constitution authorized the creation of the first regulatory agency in the state, the Railroad Commission of Texas. In April of the following year, the legislature created the commission and authorized it to regulate rates and tariffs charged by intrastate railroads and properties connected with railroads, to prevent unjust discrimination, to correct abuses, and in general to enforce state laws concerning railroads. Despite its name, the commission's duties have expanded over the years to include regulation of commercial motor vehicle transportation, gas utilities, oil and gas pipelines in wholly intrastate operations, dealers and handlers of liquefied petroleum gas and compressed natural gas, oil and gas production, and surface mining of coal, uranium, and iron ore gravel.

**Secretary of State  
Elections Division****Street Address**

200 E. 10th St., Austin, Texas 78701

**Mailing Address**

P.O. Box 12060, Austin, Texas 78711-2060

**Phone**

(512) 463-5650

**Toll-Free Phone**

1-800-252-VOTE(8683), for election matters

**Fax**

(512) 475-2811

**Electronic Resources**

[www.sos.state.tx.us/](http://www.sos.state.tx.us/)

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**Secretary of State  
Executive Division****Street Address**

1100 Congress, Capitol Bldg., Rm. 1E.8, Austin, Texas 78701

**Mailing Address**

P.O. Box 12697, Austin, Texas 78711-2697

**Phone**

(512) 463-5701

**Fax**

(512) 475-2761

**Electronic Resources**

[www.sos.state.tx.us/](http://www.sos.state.tx.us/)

**Agency Head**

The Secretary of State is appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate for a four-year term concurrent with the governor's.

**Description**

The Secretary of State, a constitutional officer of the state's executive branch, is responsible for authenticating the publication of all laws passed by the legislature, approving the comptroller's accounts against the state before they are passed on to the treasurer for payment, and keeping a register of all official acts and proceedings of the governor and all appointments to state boards and commissions. As chief election officer, the secretary of state is responsible for the interpretation and application of the State Election Code. The secretary is designated by the Constitution as keeper of the Seal of the State of Texas. The office is also the principal repository of many business-related filings in the state, including corporation and Uniform Commercial Code filings.

## State Legislative Sources

### ***Texas Veterans Commission***

***Street Address***

E.O. Thompson State Office Building, 920 Colorado, Sixth Floor, Austin, Texas 78701

***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 12277, Austin, Texas 78711-2277

***Phone***

(512) 463-5538

***Fax***

(512) 475-2395

***Agency Head***

The Executive Director is appointed by the commission.

***Description***

In 1927 the 40th Legislature created the Veterans State Service Office to inform veterans of their rights when applying for entitlements. In 1947 this office became the Veterans Affairs Commission, and in 1985 it was renamed the Texas Veterans Commission. Before 1927 the state had provided direct benefits to the veterans of the War for Texas Independence and the Civil War, and federal benefits had been provided directly to veterans of the Indian Wars, Spanish American War, Mexican border actions, and World War I. After World War I, the growing complexity of veterans' claims led the state to recognize a responsibility to assist veterans when they applied for entitlements.

### ***Texas Natural Resource and Conservation Commission***

***Street Address***

12100 Park 35 Circle, Austin, Texas 78753

***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087

***Phone***

(512) 239-1000

(512) 463-7727, twenty-four hour pollution reporting hotline

(512) 239-4000, citizen assistance (Ombudsmen)

(512) 239-3500, local government assistance

***Toll-Free Phone***

(800) 447-2827, small business assistance

(800) 64-TEXAS, Information Center/Clean Texas 2000

***Fax***

(512) 239-5533

***Electronic Resources***

<http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us>

***Agency Head***

The Executive Director is appointed by the commission.

***Description***

With the creation of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) on September 1, 1993, Texas established one of the most comprehensive state environmental programs in the nation, consolidating functions that had been dispersed throughout a variety of state agencies and boards. The new agency combined the Texas Water Commission (TWC), Texas Air Control Board, and several smaller boards and programs over a two-year period that began in 1991 with the passage of Senate Bill 2 by the 72nd Legislature. In accordance with the provisions of the act, sections of the Texas Department of Health dealing with solid waste, drinking water protection, and wastewater treatment were transferred to TWC by March 1, 1992. On September 1, 1992, the Texas Water Well Drillers Board and the Board of Irrigators were abolished and their functions transferred to TWC. On September 1, 1993 the Texas Air Control Board was abolished and its functions transferred to the new TNRCC. The Texas Water Commission became the core of TNRCC, and TWC's three full-time commissioners automatically became the commissioners of TNRCC.

## ***Supreme Court of Texas***

### ***Street Address***

Supreme Court Building, Room 103, 201 West 14th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

### ***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 12248, Austin, Texas 78711-2248

### ***Phone***

(512) 463-1312

### ***Fax***

(512) 463-1365

### ***Electronic Resources***

<http://www.clurts.state.tx.us>

### ***Agency Head***

The Chief Justice is elected by the people for a six-year term.

### ***Description***

Created in 1845 as the highest civil court in the state, the Supreme Court of Texas has statewide final appellate jurisdiction in most civil and juvenile cases. Its major responsibilities are hearing oral arguments, deciding cases appealed to it, and writing opinions.

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## ***Court of Criminal Appeals***

### ***Street Address***

Tom C. Clark Supreme Court Building, 205 West 14th Street, Suite 106,  
Austin, Texas 78701

### ***Mailing Address***

P.O. Box 12308, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711

### ***Phone***

(512) 463-1551

### ***Agency Head***

The Presiding Judge is elected by the people for a six-year term.

### ***Description***

The Court of Criminal Appeals is the highest criminal court in the state and holds final appellate jurisdiction in most criminal cases. Created in 1891, it has exclusive jurisdiction over automatic appeals in death penalty cases and appellate jurisdiction in all criminal cases except those appealed from an inferior court to a county court-at-law with an imposed fine not exceeding \$100.

# State Legislative Sources

## *Executive Branch of the United States*

### *Mailing Address*

The Honorable (Full Name)  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

### *Phone*

(202) 456-2663

### *Electronic Resources*

White House  
WWW: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>  
E-Mail

President@whitehouse.gov

WWW: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/white\\_house/mail/html/pres\\_1.html/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/white_house/mail/html/pres_1.html/)

### *Agency Head*

The President is elected by the people for a four-year term.

### *Description*

The President shall be Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several States, when called into actual service of the United States; ...

He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court, and all other officers of the United States.

He shall from time to time give to Congress information of the state of the Union,...

*This is in part the duties of the President of the United States as defined in the Constitution of the United States.*

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## *Executive Branch of the United States*

### *Mailing Address*

The Honorable (Full Name)  
The Vice-President of the United States  
Old Executive Office Building  
17th & Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20501

### *Phone*

(202) 456-2663

### *Electronic Resources*

White House  
WWW: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>  
E-Mail

Vice.President@whitehouse.gov

Vice-President@whitehouse.gov

WWW: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/white\\_house/mail/html/vp\\_1.html/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/white_house/mail/html/vp_1.html/)

### *Agency Head*

The Vice-President is elected by the people for a four-year term.

### *Description*

The Vice-President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no vote, unless they be equally divided. The Vice-President of the United States shall serve as President if the President is unable or unwilling to serve.



## ***United States Congress***

### ***Mailing Address***

The Honorable (Full Name)  
United States Senator  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable (Full Name)  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

### ***Phone***

The Capitol Complex operator phone number is (202) 224-3121

### ***Electronic Resources***

<http://www.house.gov/>

### ***Legislative Leaders***

By virtue of office, the Vice President is the President of the Senate, elected by the people for a four-year term; the President Pro Tempore, Senate Majority Leader, and Senate Minority Leader are elected by the membership of the Senate; the Speaker of the House, House Majority Leader, and House Minority Leader are elected by the membership of the House of Representatives.

### ***Description***

The Congress of the United States consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives and with this body lies all the legislative power in the United States of America.

## ***Local Libraries***

Contact your local Public or School Library.

Your local libraries can provide information on almost any subject and are a great place to start any project.

## ***Voter Registrar/Tax Assessor Collector***

Contact your local Voter Registrar/Tax Assessor Collector  
Your local VR/TAC can provide precinct information and  
local voter registration information.

## ***County Clerk/Elections Administrator***

Contact your local County Clerk/Elections Administrator  
Your local CC/EA can provide election information, polling place location, and  
ballot information.

## ***Other Local Sources***

Other local sources of information in your area might be: City Offices, Office of the Mayor, District Attorney's Office, your local Council of State Government, your local Education Service Center, and County Offices. Please consult your local telephone directory for further information.